

From the Editor

Dateline, Tacoma, Washington September 4 2014

Well, the young 'uns are back in school, the evenings are feeling a bit crisper, and I dug another blanket out of the closet over the weekend. Methinks Autumn is in the air..

W7DK Picnic Report: Paul W7PFU and Jan KHTU out-did themselves as the barbeque masters on August 30. In spite of the somewhat drizzly weather, the chow was great and the companionship of our comrades was greater. Nearly an overflow crowd made an appearance at the RCT Clubhouse, most bringing along a potluck contribution of their favorite salad or dessert. A hearty "Well Done" to all who contributed and participated.

SALMON RUN 2014 The annual Washington State QSO party (aka "Salmon Run" will be held September 20 & 21st with the Clubhouse facilities active. We need hands to man the radios, plus it is nearly always helpful to have a cheering section. In combination with this, RCT holds a pledge drive to help raise funds for various projects and operating expenses throughout the year. Look for a pledge form in the mail, and take time to make a pledge to help keep us in the black.

SEPTEMBER 10th General Meeting Program: A special presentation about Salmon Run will be made by Jim Hadlock K7WA from the Western Washington DX Club, general sponsors of the event.

WINTERIZING: With the wet and windy winter weather soon approaching, now might be a good time to spend an afternoon checking your outside equipment - cables, antennas, and the myriad other things that might be exposed to the elements. Do nuts and bolts need tightening? Connections weather-proofed? Feedlines replaced? Much easier to do these projects when it is 70 degrees instead of below freezing.

OK, see y'all at Salmon Run. Don't forget to make a pledge. 73 Mike

In This Month's Issue	
Minutes and Meeting Highlights	Page 2
Salmon Run by AI N7OMS	Page 7
RCT In Action	Page 8
Guest Column	Page 10
Members' Wallpaper	Page 11
The Fine Print	Page 12



RCT Board of Directors**6 August 2014 Meeting Minutes**

The 6 August 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Mike Elwell W7GHW

There were 11 names on the attendance roster which is attached to the original copy of these minutes

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Gary McAdams WG7X.

Minutes:

The minutes of the 2 July 2014 Board Meeting as distributed and coordinated, were approved by Motion, Made Seconded and Passed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Bob Hewlett N7NCP has had several hospital visits for evaluation and is currently back home. More medical evaluation appointments are scheduled.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements	QEX Journal
Utility and Phone Bills	Electric Radio
Newsletters	QSO Cards

TREASURER'S REPORT: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: No Report

Training:

Next Technician Class: October 11/12

Field Day No Update

Information Technology: – Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy reported that the approved **IRLP replacement computer** has been ordered and will be assembled on arrival.

HF Operations: Operational

HF Room Patch Panel Project: Al N7OMS

Some work remains to complete this project.

Repeaters: Tim White K7TMW

The 147.28 repeater failed for the Tuesday night RCT 2 Meter Net. Nick K7MO went to the clubhouse and reset circuit boards bringing the repeater back up.

The Board discussed the idea of promoting a backup use of one of our other repeaters, e.g. the 147.38 Crawford Mountain repeater in case of future failures of the .28 repeater.

Tying the club's three repeaters together to increase member access for the net was also suggested. The Repeater team was asked to explore the options and potential cost of this idea.

Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status – Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP (147.28 Repeater) Operational



**Mark Your Calendars Sept 20-21
2014 SALMON RUN @ W7DK**

Facilities Management:

Yards and Grounds: Mike Finnie W7WMF pointed out that this is the time of year to consider purchasing a riding mower. Mike committed to the yard care until next year, and isn't asking for a mower, simply pointing out the best time of year to purchase a mower.

Property Management: Report from Frank Palmer AC7JY was read

From recent donations:

Wattmeter for the HF Station – Board Approved

DB Product antenna for the EmComm Station – Board Approved

Master IIE PLL Repeaters and parts to the Repeater Committee – Board Approved

The Repeater team has identified and secured any parts required for their operations

900 MHz equipment. Finding the value of the donated 900MHz equipment at less than the \$ 35.00 accounting threshold; The Board directs the Property Manager to make the 900 MHz equipment available as a package to the State EOC/ARES District 5. The Secretary to notify the ARES District 5 Emergency Coordinator and arrange for a viewing. Should the ARES/RACES groups decline the package, the Property Manager is free to dispose of the 900 MHz equipment as excess to the Club's needs.

WWII Equipment negotiations: No action required at this point

Clearing equipment from Storage: The Board recommends a membership auction for appropriate items to assist in moving excess property from storage.

Repeater Service Monitor: Bob K7MXE advised the Board that a Service Monitor is available if the Board wishes to consider it. A motion was Made, Seconded and Passed to acquire the Service Monitor and to assess the potential expenses of its repair. As with all donated equipment, it becomes the property of the club to be managed according to the Club's stated Standard Operating Procedure.

Property Inventory:

Mike W7MWF raised the issue of where we are relative to the Club's Property Inventory. The Board needs access to current information about the **Club's equipment inventory** and asked where we stand.

A brief discussion ensued of the inventory effort started several years ago and what happened to the project.

Mike W7MWF was asked to arrange a meeting to review our current status, and options to bring our inventory up to date, and make available to the Board.

Larry KD4VOM mentioned the included need to insure that our key equipment is listed on the Club's **equipment insurance policy**

Doug AD7AV recommended we consider exploring reasonable insurance/protection of our **historical library collection**. He mentioned the idea of digitizing at least part of the collection but understands the extreme workload and commitment that would represent.

Library Report: Doug Oakman AD7AV

Doug AD7AV reviewed the Library's approved policy and procedures; listed recent and projected purchases, including subscriptions to National Contest Journal and QEX.

Funds remain in the Library budget for planned expenses.

Efforts are underway to improve member knowledge and access to our holdings as well as to provide better tools for and assist research. Plans include the possibility of adding an additional circulating library shelf and a return bin to help keep books from accidental miss-filing

Archiving work remains an open item.

Doug AD7V suggested creation of a larger copy of our **original ARRL Charter** to display at the clubhouse. One option would be to determine if the Photo-shopped version developed by Mike W7GHW can be enlarged at COSTCO.

A copy of the full Library Report is attached to the original copy of these minutes

Museum: Rich KR7W

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

General Membership Meeting Programs: Arranged by **Dave W7UUU**

August - Why upgrade? How hard is the General Class test, why would someone want to upgrade? Overview of all the bands that become available and what they're all like, radios for full HF operation, quick overview of antennas for HF.

September - Salmon Run as requested by Nick Winter and Gary McAdams - Nick is going to have Jim Hadlock K7WA from the Western Washington DX Club to come in and do a full presentation on just in time for the event - A quick intro then turn it over to WW DX Clubs JimK7WA.

Workshop Project

The August 27th Workshop is awaiting topic development.

NEW BUSINESS:

Salmon Run: Its time again for the Salmon Run Western Washington QSO Party.

Time to begin forming the event **Operations Team**

Time to prepare and mail the **Salmon Run Fund Raiser** Letters and Pledge Forms.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Lakewood MakerFest: Dave W7UUU, Anne N7ANN and Larry KD4VOM are putting together an event RCT Table and presentation for the Lakewood Library sponsored MakerFest scheduled for Saturday 9 August from 1pm to 5 pm.



The Radio Club of Tacoma

**Your Radio Club
Needs your help**

**RCT needs donations....
of Amateur Radio Equipment**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**W7DK at the Fair:**

Steve Morton AD7AB has posted the Washington State Fair Club booth schedule to the W7DK.org website. Please note that duty shift hours have changed from last year.

RCT 2 Meter Net Operations: Gary McAdams WG7X has rearranged the 2 meter Net Control list to add Anne Ellison N7ANN for the first Monday, and Gary WG7X moves to the 5th Saturday when needed. *Anne N7ANN, we welcome you to another of the Club's signature events and look forward to the Net with you at the helm.*

RCT Picnic: this year's picnic will be held August 30th at the Clubhouse managed by Paul W7PFU and Jan K7HTU

Dave W7UUU and Anne N7ANN have signed up to manage next year's picnic which will return to the field/parks. *Thank you both for your commitment .*

Kudos and Attaboys...

Al Ferguson N7OMS Welcome back to the Board and thanks for rejoining us

Jim Mendenhall KE6WHN Thank you for your service to the Club and the Board...

Anne Ellison N7ANN Great job on the 5th Tuesday 2 Meter Net and welcome to the Net Control Team.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:20

First Tuesday 2-Meter Net and Roundtable

Beginning September 2nd, and each following First Tuesday of each month, Anne K7ANN will be the NCS. Following the 'business' portion of the net, Anne and Dave W7UUU will host a roundtable for those wanting to hang around and visit a bit. The inaugural session held this week was a big success, windy conditions causing repeater noise notwithstanding. Be sure to join us every Tuesday night for the 2 meter net, 147.280 with a PL tone of 103.5

**RCT General Membership Meeting
13 August 2014 Meeting Notes**

The 13 August 2014 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 42 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Mike W7XTZ

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest welcoming and self-introductions were completed..

Lifetime member and Past RCT President Kathleen Nace N0EYK was warmly welcomed along with several visitors and new hams

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Although Bob Hewlett N7NCP has been experiencing medical difficulties recently, he and Greta KF7KSW made it to the meeting.

Correspondence:

Newsletters	Utility Bills
Bank Statements	Membership Renewals
Newsletters and Journals	QSL Cards

The Field Day Pig was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.

Meeting Refreshments: Anne Ellison N7ANN once again provided an outstanding array refreshments and snacks. Our refreshment stand sports new and less wasteful coffee pots, thanks Dave and Anne

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: George K7GRS reports the membership stands at 321 and reminded folks that membership information is easily available to active members on the W7DK.org website.

VE Report: John AC7WW

The Volunteer Examiners outnumbered the Candidates by only one at the Testing Session August 12th 2014. The session was held at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Eight elements were graded. One new Technician and one Candidate that passed element two and three joined the Amateur Service. One Candidate upgraded to General and one Candidate upgraded to Amateur Extra with a perfect score.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Jan, K7HTU	Jon, AD7AW
Rich, KK7VH	Stephen, AD7AB

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday September 9, 2014.

Training: The next Technician's class is scheduled for 11/12 October at the Clubhouse

HF Station: Normal Operations

Facilities: Bruce Hanson WE7P No significant activity.

PROGRAM: Why upgrade? Dave Ellison W7UUU

How hard is the General Class test, why would someone want to upgrade? Overview of all the bands that become available and what they're all like, radios for full HF operation, quick overview of antennas for HF. And a special video of the world's largest (and most expensive) amateur radio communications tower - OH8X Radio Arcala ARC tower in Finland.

MakerFest: Following the Program Dave W7UUU provided an overview and photos of the RCT exhibitor's table at the Lakewood

Library MakerFest held at the Steilacoom
Pierce College campus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Salmon Run: The Washington State QSO party sponsored by the Western Washington DX Club is scheduled for September 20 and 21.

Operating Team: Our operating team is forming. Please contact Gary McAdams WG7X

Pledge Drive: A major source of club funding is raised annually through the Salmon Run Pledge Drive which asks for pledges of any amount on a per county or specific criteria basis. More information will be coming by mail soon.

W7DK at the Fair: Coordinator Stephen Morton AD7AB has posted the Fair schedule to the W7DK.org website. Please take time to sign up for a tour or two. Parking, and Fair access is provided. New folks are welcome and can be paired with more experienced hams. Great opportunity to promote Amateur Radio to thousands of fairgoers.

RCT Kirkreit Picnic: Paul W7PFU, the club picnic is scheduled for Saturday August 30th at the Clubhouse at 2:30 pm...The Club will provide refreshments, hot dogs, hamburgers and trimmings, bring your favorite potluck picnic dish.

Al Ferguson N7OMS: Welcome back to the Board of Directors

Anne Ellison N7ANN: Picking up First Tuesday Night 2 Meter Net NCS duties, welcome and thanks...

Elections: We will be electing officers in November. Please be thinking about potential candidates. A nominating committee will be appointed soon and the nominees presented at the October General Membership Meeting. Nominees may be made from the floor at that meeting.

DISCUSSION TOPICS: None

SHOW AND TELL: None

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Leonard KA7NWF ... Sweden

DOOR PRIZES: Door prizes were won by Jim Hatfield K7SSS and Jeff Haws KG7JFT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

From the W7DK 2012 Salmon Run Scrapbook

Pictured to the right, RCT Member Pat WT7N takes a turn at the ICom 756 Pro III upstairs in the HF Room. In 2013, for the second year in a row, a "Clean Sweep" of all 39 Washington Counties



A Few Notes from Alan
Contributed By N7OMS

It seems as if we have several things going every month. Let's take September for example. The Puyallup Fair kicks off on the 5th and we will again have a booth in the hobby hall thanks to Steve Morton AD7AB and his crew. Check with Steve as there may be spots left to fill in the schedule.

What I would like to focus on for the next couple hundred words is the Washington State QSO party. This event is hosted by the Western Washington DX club and is about making contacts with each of the 39 counties in Washington State. What we have done at the Radio Club is to use this as an opportunity to have a fund raiser. The Radio Club of Tacoma Salmon Run Fund Raiser herein referred to as RCTSRFR . Either way it's a mouth full!

How it works is you, the member will receive a letter that will ask you to pledge an amount based on the number of counties that the crack W7DK contest team will contact during the Washington State QSO party. The team has chased the elusive clean sweep for the last seven years and has twice been successful. We'll do our best again this year. If you pledged one dollar for each county your total donation would be thirty nine dollars. We have had some pledges that got creative. Like twenty five cents for each CW contact or an extra 10 dollars for Island county. This is your chance to try out your math skills but be sure you double check cause someone once forget to carry the one and it cost them much more than they thought.

Being on the board and several committees has given me an insight into things that will be coming up for the club. With the board and officers' careful consideration there will be several projects that we are going to tackle in the coming year. Now that the Lou room has gotten its face lift it's time to put it to use. Not as just someplace to visit and have a cup. Plans are to have access to radios and a club computer. There has recently been another tower and placing UHF and VHF antennas. This should be great news for those with a Tech license. Maybe even some UHF and VHF contesting. We have had several members up on mountain peaks with radios and members have been cobbling things together so those in the club house could contact them. With a new tower and the proper antennas the cobbling would be kept to a minimum. When the EMCOM group gets up to speed they will need these bands to be effective in their work. A new patch panel has been built to facilitate antenna switching.

I could go on about other projects but will save that for another time. So let me finish up by saying that past monies raised by the RCTSRFR have been put to good use and I can see many improvements to our club. I would like to see other projects come to fruition and they can if we have the vision and leadership. Also having the money to do things right the first time is a great help. Your membership dues are greatly appreciated but please when you are considering your year end contributions keep the Radio Club of Tacoma on the list. We are a 501c3 and your donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your attention. -73 de AI / N7OMS

Editors note::this is a revised version of an article submitted by AI and originally published in September, 2012.

RCT IN ACTION

Annual Club Picnic

August 30, 2014

A photo-essay of the grub and good times at the RCT Picnic. Photos generously provided by Dave W7UUU and Anne K7ANN





Guest Column

Should QSOs from remote stations be given DXCC credit?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf). Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator's home station location are no more than 200 km apart.

As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html>) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (<http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/>) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WW1X (<http://ww1x.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html>). He called these recommendations "uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby." Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WW1X has a vested interest in this debate. He's the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.Com, a company that charges other hams to use the "super stations" that they've set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these remote stations. All they're saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur's home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I'm sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WW1X that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WW1X prattles on about how "DXCC is not a contest. It's not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It's a personal achievement award, plain and simple." This is just silly. Of course it's a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it's not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where's the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge—and it's not a small sum of money—can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it's a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed. He's not trying to pad his DXCC score. He does this for the pure love of talking to other hams in far-away places.

When the final decision is made, I hope the DX Advisory Committee goes back to first principles as set forth in FCC Part 97.1 and makes their decision on whether or not allowing DXCC credit for remote station QSOs contributes to "the advancement of the radio art" or is an "extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

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When he's not writing this column for club newsletters, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not reflect any official position of the Radio Club of Tacoma, its members or club leadership. - ed.

Operator's Wallpaper

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred) and email to the Bark Editor w7dk-news@earthlink.net. If you can't get them scanned, bring them along to the clubhouse on a Saturday, we'll scan them real quick and give them back to you.

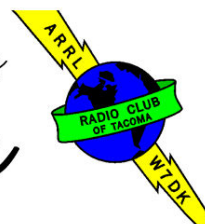


In this month's issue of The Logger's Bark we're again featuring cards that have been designed and sent by three of our club members— Librarian Doug AD7AV, Rob K7TGU and Jeff W7JFF.





The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj@w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark. If a credit line is included in the article, please seek permission from the original writer also.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411



W7DK

Proudly celebrating
97 years
of Amateur Radio Service
to
Pierce County and the
Pacific Northwest

Upcoming RCT Events

REGULAR EVENTS

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshops: Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Picnic: August 30, 2014 2:30 pm 'til ?? At the RCT Clubhouse

Salmon Run 2014: September 20-21 @ the RCT Clubhouse .Annual Washington State QSO Party and Club Fundraiser.